The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1537 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 39

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Sidney Hillman has won a clear-cut victory in his first open battle with John L. Lewis. The battle took place at Rochester during the convention of the New York State CIO Industrial Council. When the smoke cleared, Hillman's forces held the fort while the Lewis boys could be only dimly seen, rapidly retreating to the left.

I hate to get the facts straight from an impartial source, let us quote from the New York Times of Sept. 22:

"John L. Lewis, national president of the CIO, took his stand with the left wing, anti-Roosevelt faction in the State CIO here today. Through Allan S. Haywood, national director of organization for the CIO, Mr. Lewis directed a bolt from the annual convention of the State Industrial Union Council by thirteen left-wing unions, after the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and other anti-Communist unions had won control of the convention and defeated a resolution calling for a third term for President Roosevelt, which was later adopted. Both wings held separate meetings tonight, each claiming to act officially for the CIO."

PM, the New York tabloid, described the battle of Rochester as follows:

"In this corner, John L. Lewis.

"In this corner, Sidney Hillman.

"The outcome of that battle was a split in the State council, the largest CIO body in the country. The question many persons are asking is, what will Hillman's Amalgamated Clothing Workers do now?"

Where is Hillman Going?

The writer of this article goes on to speculate. He says Hillman may pull out of the CIO and seek to return to the American Federation of Labor. He says Hillman may just pull out of the CIO and remain independent. On the other hand, he suggests it may be possible that Hillman may remain in the CIO and continue in battle for control with Lewis.

Not only the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are affected. Allied with that union is the CIO Textile Workers Union, or what remains of it. Also is the Hillman group is part of the United Retail and Wholesale Employees of New York union. Some of its delegates remained with the Hillman faction and the rest bolted with the Lewis group.

We find the entire picture very interesting and quite as we predicted some time ago when we pointed to the inevitability of a showdown fight between Lewis and Hillman.

The New York State CIO convention fully confirms our charge that Lewis is continuing to play the game of the Communist Party. All of the unions that bolted the convention on every test vote were Communist controlled. The Amalgamated spokesmen estimated that they represented only one-fourth of the CIO membership in New York. Nevertheless, Lewis is on their side.

Where is Lewis Going?

Why?

First, because Lewis is unremitting in his hatred of Roosevelt and the Hillman group were equally determined to indorse the third-term campaign.

Second, because the Hillman group are bitterly anti-Communist and, in fact, adopted a resolution calling for the joint condemning Communism, Nazism and Fascism by name.

Third, because Lewis is resolved to maintain his one-man dictatorship over CIO policies even if it means the secession of Hillman and the unions sympathetic to his side.

The whole story of the CIO convention in New York should be an object lesson to all trade unionists. Riots and disorder were the rule. One session had to be called off entirely because of Communist demonstrations. Attempts were made by both sides to "pack" the convention with delegates of their own choice. Neither faction was willing to submit its case to a fair test and abide by the results. The Communist group demanded that even the Communist group bolted rather than submit to the will of the majority.

All of this is strikingly reminiscent of the way the CIO was formed in the first place. Rather than submit to the will of the majority in the American Federation of Labor, Lewis and his group bolted from the A. F. of L. convention and formed the CIO. Now we find him bolting from the CIO.

We must touch on one other point. Among the Communist-controlled unions which participated in the bolt from the New York CIO convention was the American Newspaper Guild. That is just one of the reasons why the boss fish newspapers in New York are thoroughly disgusted with the Guild and are leaving it in large numbers. The most crushing repudiation of the Guild that has taken place since the formation of the union occurred in Chicago a few days ago when the Labor Board elections in the Herald-American plant. The victory of the AFL unions in that election over the Guild heralds a new day for union-minded newspapermen.

New Jersey Labor Backs Roosevelt; State Federation Hits Reds, Nazis

Atlantic City, N. J.—The New Jersey Federation of Labor, spokesman for some 250,000 members, endorsed the candidacy of President Roosevelt for a third term.

The action came in sixty-second annual convention at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, adopted the resolution acclamation to the tune of "God Bless America." The singing was started by the delegates from the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the others joined in. The New Jersey body also condemned the Ku Klux Klan, Nazi Bunds, Communist and pro-Fascist groups "and all other groups and individuals seeking to spread a vicious pro-dictatorship and "unstinted" support to the President anti-American spirit."

as "the greatest friend of labor and humanity that ever occupied the White House."

"The people of the country have the unquestioned right to elect a President as long as they desire the exercise of their democratic rights under the Constitution," the resolution said.

Other resolutions adopted called for broadening the Social Security Act, a federal census to provide funds for more adequate defense housing in the New Jersey; condemned the Ku Klux Klan, Nazi Bunds, Communist and pro-Fascist groups "and all other groups and individuals seeking to spread a vicious pro-dictatorship and "unstinted" support to the President anti-American spirit."

Lewis Is "Truth-Twisting Windbag," Soderstrom Tells Illinois Federation

Rockford, Ill.—Reuben G. Soderstrom, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, said in an address at the federation's annual convention that "John L. Lewis has become the most ambitious, the most imaginative, the most efficient, the most experienced truth-twisting windbag this nation has ever produced."

"When John L. Lewis tells you that the President of the United States will meet with 'ignominious defeat,' he's just dreaming," the federation head told the delegates. "When Lewis tells you that he will form C. I. O. construction unions and substitute them for the regular A. F. of L. building trades unions he is just talking through his hat. When he tells you that he will take those building construction C. I. O. unions and use them to destroy the American Federation of Labor, he is indulging in some more imaginative prevarication."

Reduction of the work day and week, lengthening of vacation periods without lowering workers' pay, and increase in earnings in the low wage occupations were listed in the annual report of the executive board as goals of the federation as requirements "essential to restoration of normal work opportunities."

Roosevelt Endorsement Turned Down By Indiana Federation of Labor

'Marion, Ind.—The Indiana Federation of Labor refused to indorse the third term aspirations of President Roosevelt. The organization also declined to support the Democratic administration of Gov. M. Clifford Townsend.

The action was taken at the closing session of the federation's convention here. The delegates voted 269 to 91 against a resolution presented by Max Shafer, member and conciliator of the state division of labor, to indorse the national and state administrations and Mr. Roosevelt's bid for reelection.

Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, said in an address to the convention:

"We must not forget, however preoccupied we may become with the threat of world defense, that the preservation of labor's gains is one of the bulwarks of our national defense and that a strong, united labor is well demonstrated, the strength of a nation rests in the unity of interest among its working people for the preservation of its way of life.

"That way of life in the United States, even before the war, was far happier than in any other nation that I know of, and much better and better in every way than the existence of those millions enslaved by the Nazi, Communist or Fascist dictators.

Newsmen In Chicago Defeat Guild; A. F. L. Unions Victorious in Election

Chicago, Ill.—The American Newspaper Guild is licked in Chicago. American Federation of Labor unions won a clean sweep victory over the CIO Guild in Labor Board elections among employees of the Chicago Herald-American. The vote was:

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Chicago Editorial Association (AFL)	151
American Newspaper Guild (CIO)	34

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Newspaper Commercial Associates (AFL)	388
American Newspaper Guild (CIO)	91

As a result of these elections, which culminate a two year bitter fight with the Guild, the American Federation of Labor unions will be certified by the Labor Board as the exclusive bargaining agency for the employes of the newspaper.

An additional result will be the calling of a conference soon by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor for the establishment of a national council of newspaper writers unions affiliated with the AFL.

In its desperate efforts to block the AFL unions from being recognized as the bargaining agency for the Herald-American employes, the American Newspaper Guild waged a series of fake strike against the Hearst papers and did much to overcome union opposition in the South.

Sixtieth Annual A. F. L. Convention Will Open on Nov. 18 in New Orleans

Washington, D. C.—Official notice that the next annual convention of the American Federation of Labor will begin Monday morning, Nov. 18, 1940, in the Civic Auditorium, New Orleans, Louisiana, was sent to all affiliated unions by President Green and Secretary-Treasurer Meany.

Organizations to be entitled to representation at the convention by certificate of affiliation (charter), at least one month prior to the Convention and no person will be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the organization he is elected to represent.

"It is more important than ever," said the Convention Call, "that all organizations chartered by and in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor be represented at this historic Convention. The great national and international emergency which confronts the Nation calls for an expression on the part of the millions of workers in the American Federation of Labor upon social, economic and industrial questions which affect the well-being of all classes of people. This objective can be reached if the membership is fully represented.

"Our great Democratic Movement must again, through democracy, maintain position in defense of Democracy, Democratic procedure, and free Democratic institutions. The Convention will assemble at a time when the fate of the democratic world hangs in the balance. We must adopt wise policies, formulate and proclaim a declaration of principles and adopt a program which will serve to inspire in our hope and courage in the hearts and minds of the masses of the people. We must fight for the maintenance of the American way of life, for the enjoyment of liberty, freedom and justice, and for the consolidation of all our gains.

"If each and every member of the American Federation of Labor is represented at this Sixtieth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor by delegates who are conscious of their grave responsibilities, the work of the Convention and the decisions it makes will make a profound impression upon the hearts and minds of all citizens of our Republic."

Credentials in duplicate are being forwarded to all affiliated unions. The original credential should be given to the delegate-elect and the duplicate forwarded to the American Federation of Labor Office, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

The Committee on Credentials will meet at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor two days previous to the opening of the Convention, and will report immediately upon the opening thereof at New Orleans, hence secretaries will observe the necessity of mailing the duplicate credentials of their respective delegates at the earliest possible moment to Washington, D. C.

Any resolutions or proposals received after the expiration of the time limits will be referred to the Executive Council and the Executive Council will refer all such proposals to the convention with the understanding that acceptance of such proposals is dependent upon the unanimous consent of the convention.

Any or all proposals emanating from directly affiliated local trade and federal labor unions will be referred to the Executive Council for consideration and disposition. The Executive Council will in turn advise the convention of the disposition made of such proposal or proposals.

Three copies of each resolution or proposal should be furnished.

Hotel reservations in New Orleans for the convention period may be obtained by writing to Robert L. Soule, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council, 321 South St. Patrick St., New Orleans, La.

Communism Is Peril to Negro Race, Randolph Warns Pullman Porters

New York, N. Y.—The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. of L., the only Negro international union in the United States, was warned at its fifteenth anniversary convention in Harlem that communism was no solution for the problems of the Negro.

A. Philip Randolph, president of the brotherhood, who resigned last April as president of the National Negro Congress, on the ground that it was controlled by Communists, said in his address to the convention:

"With the march of dictatorships we must reaffirm our faith and devotion to the ideals of democracy and liberty. To that end, we reject the Communist program as a solution of all the problems of the Negro, because it is the negation of democracy.

"We condemn all Communist front and transmission belt organizations as a peril to the constructive and sound program of the Negro people, since they seek only to serve the cause of the Communist party, which is only concerned about the success of the foreign policy of Soviet Russia, the Communist fatherland, and complete national defense. We call for labor unity for C. I. O. unions returning to the home of labor—the A. F. of L.

"We call for the abolition of the poll tax and white primaries, and the passing of the Anti-Lynching bill.

"We are opposed to conscription while the nation is not at war, but we advocate all aid to Great Britain."

Labor and the USHA

(The following editorial is reprinted from the Washington, D. C., Star:)

In connection with defense housing, as with the general slum clearance program, the United States Housing Authority and union labor have demonstrated again the benefits to be derived from harmonious labor relations. By cooperating to speed up the economical construction of necessary housing for national defense workers, building trades unions are reported as agreeing to work double shifts at straight time wages on all such projects financed by the U. S. A. The arrangement serves the important purpose of curbing construction time in half without substantially increasing costs. It is based on resolution adopted by local unions which provide that they will furnish workers for double shifts at prevailing rates on an eight-hour day, forty-hour week basis. Only where individuals or shifts work in excess of these limits is there the overtime rate to be paid. Thus the workers are assured of no loss of zealously guarded "social gains" as a result of the defense program and in return pledge cooperation where speed is such an essential factor.

Other federal agencies, such as the War and Navy Departments and the Public Buildings Administration, which are slated to handle the great bulk of defense housing, could profit from a similar arrangement, as well as from the lead of the building trades unions themselves, in applying it to their own U. S. H. A. projects. Labor is personally interested in defense housing as it is in public housing generally. It has demonstrated time after again in connection with the USHA program and public housing that it is willing and ready to cooperate when given the opportunity.

News Briefs

JEROME JONES DIES IN ATLANTA

Atlanta, Ga.—Jerome Jones, "the Samuel Gompers of the South" and dean of labor paper editors in the nation, died here on Sept. 24. For more than forty-six years he had edited the Atlanta Journal of Labor.

Mr. Jones' activities in behalf of the American Federation of Labor covered more than half a century. He was past President and President-Emeritus of both the Georgia State Federation of Labor and the Atlanta central council. He founded the Atlanta Journal of Labor at the request of the late Samuel Gompers and did much to overcome union opposition in the South.

TRACY PRAISES LABOR FOR DEFENSE AID

Atlantic City, N. J.—Organized labor has rallied loyally behind the national defense program, Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy told the New York State Federation of Labor at its state convention.

"Never before have the men and women of labor been faced with a greater responsibility to our country, our families and our organizations," Tracy said. "Without the wholehearted cooperation of labor, the defense program would be ineffective. Labor has given such cooperation."

Tracy hailed that defense program, "under our great humanitarian President," can be used not only to fortify the country from a military standpoint, but "to reduce unemployment, maintain living standards and strengthen the human fiber of the nation."

PAINTERS ACCEPT ARBITRATION PLAN

New York, N. Y.—District Council No. 9, International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, accepted a proposal by Mayor LaGuardia that the union's five-week strike in New York be arbitrated by Master Painters and Decorators be submitted to arbitration. The employers have already accepted action on the Mayor's proposal.

The union stipulated that the negotiations should be continued before the New York State Board of Mediation and the Board agreed that it would resume discussions as soon as possible. In response to a statement by Mr. LaGuardia that realty interests had reported widespread cancellations of fall strike plans, the union said it had signed agreements with 325 painting contractors and "many" could do all the city's painting.

LACE FIRMS MUST PAY $60,000 BACK WAGES

Washington, D. C.—Baird Snyder, Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, announced that in accordance with the consent judgment issued by Judge John B. Hartigan in the U. S. District Court for the State of Rhode Island at Providence, ten lace-making firms must pay some 300 employees home workers back wages estimated at $60,000 to bring their rate up to 32½ cents an hour called for by the textile wage order. The firms represent 70 per cent of the drawn lace production in the country. Wage and hour inspectors found that the women lace makers were working on piece-work rates established seven or eight years ago which yielded only five to twenty cents an hour.

N. Y. ELECTRICAL WORKERS WIN CABLE PLANTS STRIKE

New York, N. Y.—One thousand electrical workers resumed work after a strike of nearly three months in three cable and conduit plants here. The settlement, announced by Local No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, voted to submit to the arbitration of Mayor F. H. LaGuardia certain wages-and-hours issues after having obtained concessions which included retention of the closed shop and seniority rights, the reemployment of all workers on the same basis as before during the term of the agreement.

NEW YORK JOBLESS PAID $241,479,857 BENEFITS

Albany, N. Y.—Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller reported that the New York State Unemployment Insurance Fund had paid $241,479,857.79 in benefit payments to unemployed workers since January 1, 1938, when benefits first became payable. After payments for August were made the fund had a balance of $292,382,497.86.

$371,464 UNPAID WAGES RECOVERED FOR WORKERS

San Francisco, Calif.—More than $48,000 in unpaid wages was recovered for California workers during August, State Labor Commissioner C. J. Carrasco announced, bringing the total collections since the first of the year to $371,464.

Labor and Legion Take Joint Stand For Defense and Against Dictators

UNION GIVES 8,000 HOSPITAL CARE

New York, N. Y.—Complete hospital care will be guaranteed to 8,000 persons during the year beginning Oct. 1 under a contract signed by Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians with the Manhattan General Hospital, Second Avenue and Seventeenth Street, it was announced.

Characterizing the new arrangement as "an unprecedented social welfare activity in the history of trade unionism," the local said that it would assume all costs for its unemployed members and their families who are covered by it. The services available will include diagnosis, X-ray, medication, obstetrics and hospitalization up to two hundred days.

The present plan limits this service to unemployed and indigent members of the local and their families, but the experiment will be watched closely and, if it proves successful, probably will be expanded to cover the entire 22,000 members of the local and their families, a representative of the local said.

There will be no added assessments to meet the costs of the new venture, according to union officials, who said that its present funds would suffice to meet the costs. They said that there were normally from 1,500 to 2,000 members of the local registered with it as unemployed.

For purposes of operation the new plan calls for the division of the city into eight districts, in each of which the union has retained a physician who is a member of the staff of the hospital. These physicians will care not only for the unemployed members of the local and their families residing in their districts and will determine admissions to the hospital.

Jacob Rosenberg, president of Local 802, is chairman of the medical board that will put the new plan after a study of medical and welfare work done by other unions.

WAGES IN PUERTO RICO PROBED BY COMMITTEE

San Juan, P. R.—The special committee appointed to investigate labor conditions in Puerto Rico preliminary to recommending lower wage and hour scales than the present statutory minimum under the Fair Labor Standards Act began its work promptly on arrival here. The committee, whose chairman is Mgr. Francis J. Haas of Washington, was accompanied by Col. Philip B. Fleming, administrator of the Wage and Hour Division. Other members included David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and Elias Lieberman, lawyer for the union. The committee was authorized to settle minimum wage problems for more than 50,000 needle workers employed in Puerto Rican homes and shops.

Mr. Dubinsky said he expected to be asked to testify before the wage board here or against the 30-cents-an-hour minimum wage which is now in effect, and to see if it were true that employers had been taking advantage of the workers of Puerto Rico.

MORE BUYING POWER URGED FOR LOW-INCOME GROUPS

Washington, D. C.— The importance of increasing the purchasing power of low-income groups in both city and country as a means of employment by Milo Perkins, Director of Marketing of the Department of Agriculture. The family income having less than $100 a month in 1936 had its income boosted to the $100 to $1,000 mark and spend two billion dollars more a year for food," he said, adding: "Farmers would have spent their part of their money to buy city goods and a great many of the unemployed would have gone to work."

$7,392,000 USHA HOUSING LOANS APPROVED BY F.D.R.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt approved $7,392,000 in United States Housing Authority loans to local housing authorities in Pittsburgh, Pa., Quincy, Ill., Peoria, Ill., Galveston, Tex., Twin Falls, Idaho, and Brownsville, Tex. The new loans bring to a total of 193 the number of such agencies with approved USHA loans for construction of public housing projects. To date, 276 USHA projects totaling 99,043 dwellings in the low-rent and slum-clearance program have either gone into construction or have been completed.

WAR, NAVY DEPTS. FILL 90,000 DEFENSE JOBS

Washington, D. C.—The United States Civil Service Commission announced that since June nearly 90,000 national defense positions have been filled in the War and Navy Departments. The great majority of these positions were in navy yards and arsenals. The commission has set up a recruiting program which is securing defense workers in a minimum of time and which has resulted in speeding up defense work in establishments of the War and Navy Departments throughout the country.

UNION LABOR AND LEGION TAKE JOINT STAND FOR DEFENSE AND AGAINST DICTATORS

Green Tells Legion Convention Both Organizations are Bound by Patriotic Ties.

(This story for release at noon, Sept. 25)

Boston, Mass.—The American Federation of Labor joined hands with the American Legion here in a united stand for total defense of America and in a joint condemnation of the Nazi, Communist and Fascist dictators of Europe.

President William Green, of the A. F. of L., in an address before the American Legion convention which was broadcast throughout the nation by the Mutual System Network, declared:

"In these critical days of world upheaval it is imperative that those who are devoted to the cause of democracy and justice should stand together, united against the common foe."

Mr. Green pointed out that for years the American Federation of Labor and the American Legion have been in accord on these principles—the preservation of our form of government, child welfare, establishment of decent social and economic conditions among the masses of the people and opposition to subversive forces.

He warned that when the war is over the entire world will face grave economic and social problems, and said:

"The American Federation of Labor and the American Legion must be ready to serve the nation then just as we have tried to do through all the years of our present relationship and as we ought to do as organizations made up of devoted citizens of our great republic."

Mr. Green advocated all aid to Great Britain, short of war. He said that "so long as the battle of Britain is being fought, there will be no battle of America."

In a fervent plea for maintenance of labor's gains, Mr. Green said:

"Let our social, economic and industrial gains be consolidated. Let us go forward. We cannot include in the words 'retreat' or 'backward steps' in our democratic vocabulary. We must not, we will not, we shall not think of the masses of the people by taking from them gains which they secured by great sacrifice, in their judgment, such action is absolutely unnecessary. We cannot, we will not, we shall not unnecessarily engage in a speed-up system which takes the strength, the health and resourcefulness of men beyond its limitations, without inflicting an injury upon our economic and industrial system. We must apply the rules of common sense, discretion and judgment to meet a great national emergency, just as we do when conditions are normal, and our national defense is normal.

On national defense, Mr. Green said:

"Our national defense must be adequate and complete in every detail. We cannot stop until this objective has been reached. There must be no weak spot in our defenses which would permit the penetration of a foreign foe. We must speak the language of strength and force. We must finally resolve that no enemy, no marauder, no invading army shall ever set foot upon our soil.

"The great army of workers represented in the American Federation of Labor are single minded in the conviction that the preservation of American democracy transcends all considerations. They are ready to work, they are ready to sacrifice, they are ready to fight for America."

Mr. Green announced that the American Federation of Labor will give the draft law "the fullest support."

He added:

"Labor will do everything in its power to help the Government make the draft a success and to protect the rights of the millions of young men who are drafted in the next few months. These young men are being called upon by the nation to make sacrifices for the defense of all of us. It is only fair and proper that we do everything in our power to safeguard their jobs, their health and their future security."

In conclusion, Mr. Green declared: "A crisis brings out the best and the spirit of its people. From its very birth America has demonstrated our country has faced grave threats to its existence and to its ideals. We have faith in the fact that we have not each crisis courageously, that our country has emerged from each test strengthened and that our ideals shine brighter now than ever before.

"Today we stand face to face with the test of whether our people and the human race itself shall lose everything gained in centuries of civilization. Because I have faith in a Divine Power, because I have faith in the American people and because I have faith in humanity, I do not doubt the result. I know America will meet the challenge. I know the American people will unite as one and repulse the foe there with the same daring and bravery that you men of the American Legion showed in the last war. I know that America and civilization will triumph."

SCHOOL CHILDREN SERVED 25,000,000 HOT MEALS

Washington, D. C.—Service of more than 25,000,000 hot meals to needy school children was among the important accomplishments of the National Youth Administration during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, NYA Administrator Aubrey Williams reported. In addition, NYA youths produced and renovated over 1,700,000 articles of clothing for use by charitable institutions or distribution to needy families.